WAITING LIST FOR TELEPHONES IN SOLAPUR

2501. SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD. Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that waiting list position for new telephone connections in respect of Solapur (Maharashtra) has been rather distressing; and

(b) if so, what is the waiting list position in respect of different categories of telephone applicants indicating the number of applications pending and the date up to which each type of applications have been cleared ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) Yes, Sir. The waiting list for new telephone connections is pending for long time.

(b) waiting list position as on 30-11-93:

Category	No. of Applicatons pending	Date of last clearance
(i) OYT Special	280	9-4-1990
(ii) OYT General	707	9-6-1989
(iii) Non-OYT Special	707	10-4-1987
(iv) Non-OYT General	5810	20-10-1984

PROVIDING TELEPRINTER NETWORK IN SOLAPUR

2502. SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a proposal under Government's consideration to connect Solapur with Pune, Latur and Usmanabad with teleprinter network;

(b) if so, what is the estimated cost of the project; and

(c) what steps have been taken so far in that direcion ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) Solapur is already connected with Pune, Latur and Usmanabad on Teleprinter Circuits and are linked to Modern Message Switching Network.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

POST OFFICES IN ORISSA

2503. SHRI PRAVAT KUMAR SAMANTARAY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) how many branch Post Offices have so far been opened in the State of Orissa since March, 1993 and how many branch Post Offices have been upgraded to sub-Post Offices during this period alongwith the names of the places and districts; and

(b) how many panchayats of different districts in the State of Orissa do not have branch Post Office and by when these panchayats will have the facility of post office ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) 17 extra departmental branch post offices have been opened and one extra departmental branch

post office at Lemalo in Cuttack district has been upgraded to departmental sub post office since March 1993 in Orissa. District-wise details of extra departmental branch post offices are given in the statement (see below).

(b) There are 240 gram panchayats of different districts in the State of Orissa without extra departmental branch post office. Post Offices are opened in the gram panchayat subject to fulfilment of departmental norms and availability of resources.

STATEMENT

District-wise details of extra Departmental Branch POs open ed so far in Orissa Circle, under Annual Plan 1993-94

Sl. No.	Name of District	Name of extra deprtmental branch post offices opened
1	K oraput	1. Chipahhar 2. Sudabari 3. Aunli
2.	Kalahandi	1. Birikote 2. Badabafal 3. Malkandel 4. Sirmaska
3.	Nowrangapur	1. Kumuli 2. Dalbeda 3. Chatiguda 4. Parachipada
4.	Phulbani	1. Luising 2. Tekangia 3. Kajuri 4. Marlanga 5. Majhipada
5.	Sundargarh	1. Sankraposhi

REGULARISATION OF EXTRA DEPARTMENTAL AGENTS

2504. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Ministe of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of extra-departmental agents as on date;

(b) whether Government propose to regularise their services; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) The number of Extra-departmental agents as on 31-3-1993, was 3,06,027.

(b) and (c) No Sir. The work load in ED post offices ranges between 2 and 5 hours a day. When the work load exceeds the maximum prescribed limit of 5 hours a day, the feasibility of conversion of the ED post office into departmental post office is explored. On conversion the